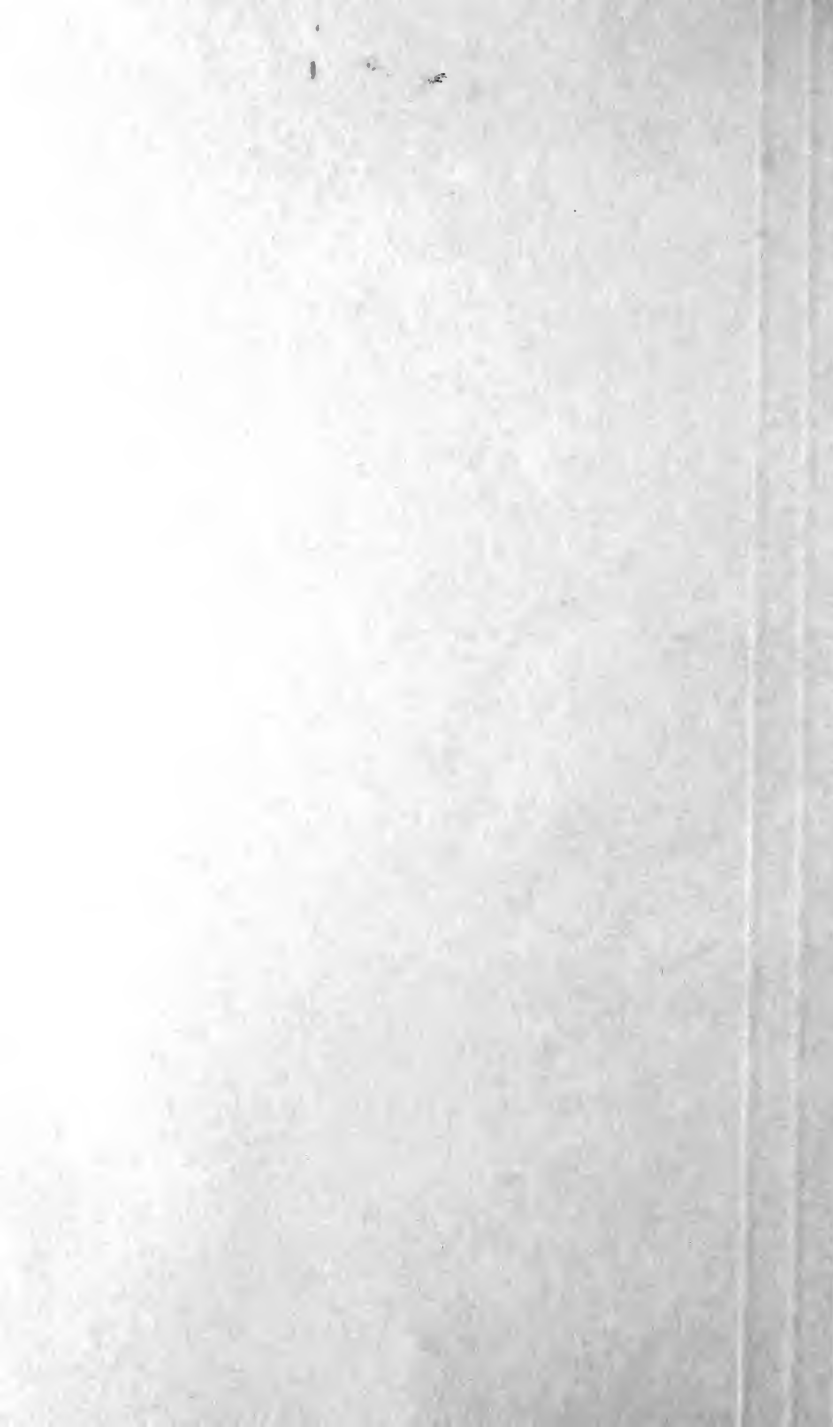
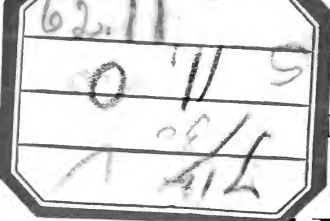


# **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices

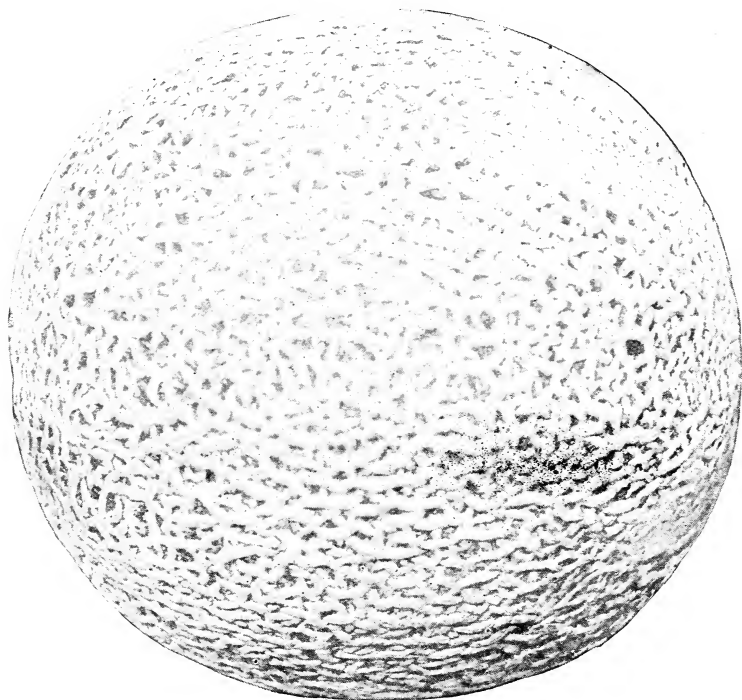




1917

HIGH GRADE  
AND CUCUMBER  
**SEEDS**

FOR  
**MARKET GROWERS**



James' Rust-Resistant Rocky Ford Cantaloupe, Winner  
of First Prize at the Rocky Ford Fair, 1910-11-13

GROWN BY

**R. H. JAMES**

**"THE MELON SEED MAN"**

**Rocky Ford,**

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**Colorado**

# GREETINGS FOR 1914

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IN presenting this catalog to the melon growers of America, my idea is to present a brief description of the most profitable varieties, together with a few reasons why the seed I have for sale is as good and reliable as it is possible to be.

I make no pretensions to being an expert compiler of catalogs nor a creator of new varieties of wonderful merit. Pretty pictures and stories of newly created vegetable prodigies may do for some classes of the seed trade, but the men who grow America's melons are more interested in knowing where they can obtain seed which can be relied upon to produce the very best crop of varieties. I have made a considerable study of both melons and cucumbers and have had an extensive experience in the breeding and growing these crops and believe I have the equipment and ability to produce as good seed of our commercial melons as any one.

To those who have in the past used seed of my growing I wish only to mention the varieties I have this season and to assure them the quality is as heretofore. To those who are strangers I take this means to inform them as to my manner of growing seed and terms of selling them.

I GROW WHAT I SELL and all seed offered are grown on my farm or by my neighbors who are under contract to grow the crops from my stocks, and under my supervision. I am therefore able to assure you from a personal knowledge that all varieties offered here were grown on first-class land having good cultural treatment. Special care was taken to avoid mixture, either through pollenization at blooming time, or by the careless use of implements at harvest time. I offer no new strain or variety until I have satisfied myself that I have the very best stock of it procurable and I make no apology for the quality of any variety I list. I am on the job continuously from the time the crop is determined upon until it is in the hands of a satisfied customer. Knowing thus the quality of the seed, I can guarantee them as no dealer does. I do not expect to make a profit out of your business unless you do. I therefore take your word for it and any seed not proving satisfactory has only to be reported and I will refund the price paid without argument.

In conclusion, if there is any matter in which I can be of use to you in relation to either choosing varieties, or in regard to cultural methods, I will be glad to hear from you.

With due appreciation of past favors and best of wishes for a bounteous and profitable season, I am

Yours very truly,

R. H. JAMES.

# The Way I Do Business

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ORDER EARLY—I GROW WHAT I SELL and while I judge my stocks to be ample, there is no way of replenishing them should they become exhausted. Your only sure way is to beat the other fellow to it.

REMITTANCES should accompany the order.

PRICES are prepaid to your station. When you make out an order to me, you do not have to take an express or freight rate sheet to figure out just what it will cost you. If there is any claim for lost or wasted goods make it to me. I ought to be able to get better action on it than you.

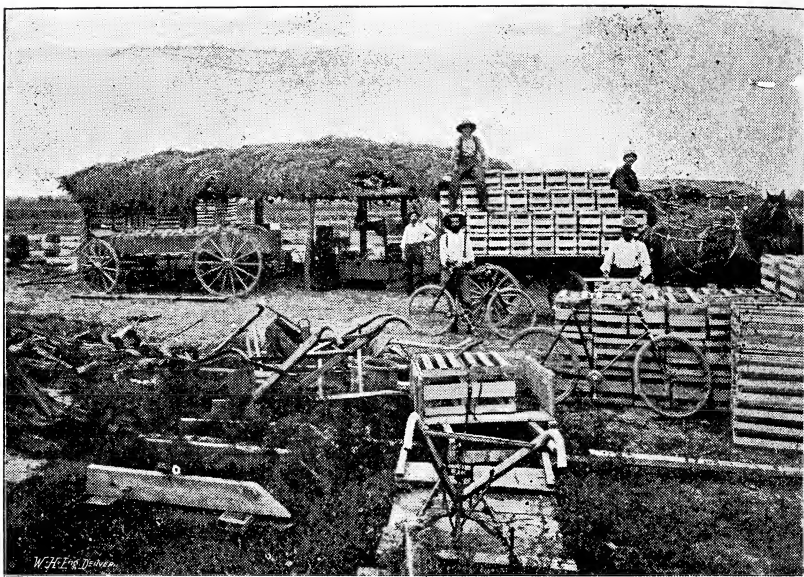
GUARANTEE: I guarantee you satisfaction or refund your money. That much I wish to do, more I will not do for any reason. This covers germination, purity or whatever you say and without argument. I test all seed carefully in a Standard Germination tester and know from observation that the stocks are O. K. Guarantee slip enclosed with every order. After a 4 year trial this guarantee works no hardship on me and I believe you are entitled to it.

DESCRIPTIONS are made short as I am listing mostly well known varieties and dealing with people who know what they want. If there is any variety you are interested in and wish a more detailed account of, write me. I do not re-name varieties and, by glowing descriptions, work them off on people who would not buy them if they knew what they were getting. I believe the buying public is getting onto the fact that the fellow who resorts to deception to effect a sale generally practices deception as to quality to secure a profit.

INVITATION: My crops are all grown adjacent to Rocky Ford, and any customer visiting Colorado during the growing season, and interested in quality of any variety listed, will be shown the crops growing in the field if they will notify me of their desire.

TESTIMONIALS I do not print. They are used by every fake concern there is. The bigger the fake the better the testimonial. If you wish a testimonial I will send you the address of a customer living near. If you wish reference, go to the mercantile agencies of the Rocky Ford National Bank.





## Instructions for Growing



**C**ANTALOUPES like rich sandy loam soil with good drainage, although they are sometimes grown on heavy soils but never without good drainage. They have an enormous root system, probably producing as many feet of roots as vines.

Realizing that, you can readily see the necessity of a well aerated soil for them to feed in. New prairie sod, alfalfa or clover sod and small grain sod are good with us to grow melons on. Fall plowing gives the best results, and should be deep and well worked down to a good seed bed. Where sod ground is not available land well fertilized with stable manure is good.

Planting is done either in hills or drill rows, the hill system being in the most general use. Hills are generally checked to admit of cross cultivation, 5 ft. by 5 ft. being the standard distance. The growing of melons in the drill row is gaining in favor here, the seed being planted with beet drills, grain drills and corn planters by using special plates and stopping up the proper amount of drill shoes. I prefer the hill method as it is the more accurate, especially where the thinning is left to the judgment of inexperienced help. We figure on using 1 lb. of seed to the acre by the hill method and 3 by drill.

Plant about the same time as early corn, putting 8 to 10 seed to the hill. We find it pays to use plenty of seed to the hill as a great many are destroyed by cut worms and cucumber beetles. Thin down

to 2 plants to the hill as soon as danger from insects is over.

Cultivation should be deep and frequent until the plant starts to vine, after which care should be taken not to disturb the root system which soon extends from row to row. In hoeing draw the soil to the plant, aiming to get the hill in as mellow condition as is possible without interfering with the shallow roots. The secret of early melons is in getting the plants started in a well prepared seed bed and never letting them suffer for either cultivation or moisture. Cantaloupes respond as quickly as any plant to thorough cultivation and fertile soil.

A melon is good only if picked at the proper stage of ripeness, and as that stage is quickly passed, they should be picked at least once every day. It is hard to tell a freshly ripened melon from a green one, but there is a slight change in color in the interstices of the netting that can be discerned with a little practice. The novice can go by the test of trying the stem to see if it will slip from the melon until he is able to tell by sight. A ripe melon will slip from the vine but a green one has to be broken off.

**WATERMELONS** are particularly adapted to sandy soil and have the power to withstand drouth and make quick recovery when water is applied. They are planted in hills from 6 to 12 ft. apart each way. Like cantaloupes they have an enormous root system and the soil must not be allowed to bake or get hard.

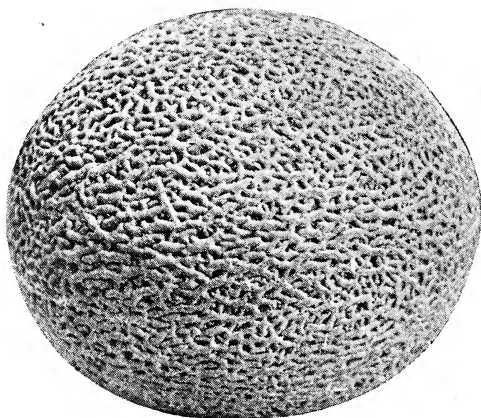
**CUCUMBERS** in the early stages of development are hardier than either cantaloupes or watermelons, but as fruiting time approaches they make tremendous demands upon the soil for fertility and moisture. In the pickle districts where irrigation is practiced they are watered every day during the picking season. Where irrigation water is not available the ground has to be in good fertility and tilth to sustain the plant between showers.

The principal pests with us are the striped cucumber beetle and melon louse. They attack both melons and cucumbers and the treatment is same in all cases.

The striped cucumber beetle is a little black and yellow striped fellow, and lives off the plant from the time it sprouts until he freezes up in the fall. He does damage only when the plants are in the two leaf stage and have not yet got established enough to support him. A good thrifty plant soon grows away from the beetle's capacity to harm, so care should be taken that the plant be kept growing while small. Hoeing is often as good for a field as chemicals. Dusting with slacked lime is generally practiced here but I prefer to use Buhach, dusting it lightly on the plants in the early morning. If you are fixed right for it spraying with either Arsenate of Lead or Bordeaux Mixture is good.

The melon louse can only be controlled if discovered before they have spread and become well established. It is possible, but not often practical, to get them with the Black Leaf 40 spray. My idea and practice is to make a clean job of it, and as soon as discovered roll the vines up in a compact mass and bury by covering with soil. Burning by covering the plant with straw is also practiced but I prefer the burying, as it is more thorough, and can generally be done the instant a lousy hill is discovered.





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## **James' Rust-Resistant Eden Gem Strain Rocky Ford Cantaloupe**

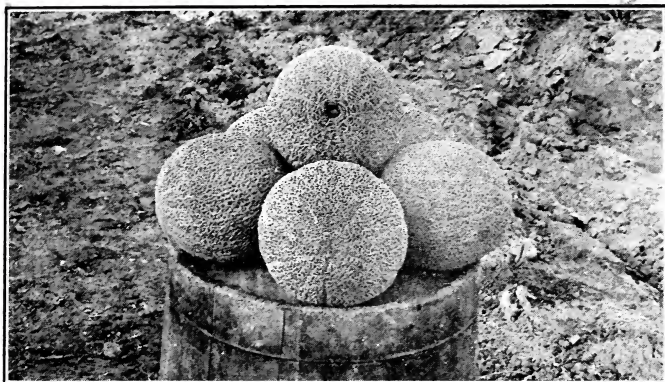
This is the highest bred type of the Rocky Ford Cantaloupe grown. In the six seasons I have grown it, it has never been damaged by rust or blight. Comes truer to the solid net ideal than any strain known. Besides being the heaviest netted strain it has a sweeter flavor and thicker meat than any other. The vines are rank growers and never fail to stay green until frost. This is my show melon I use to compete with at the Fairs and it holds an unequaled record for getting the blue ribbons. I have won first premium at the Rocky Ford Fair with it in 1910-11-13, having been defeated but once since I began showing it. The largest yields per acre of crated melons have also been made with this melon. It is as early as any strain except Watter's Early.

I grow this seed on 1st and 2d year alfalfa sod and from plant bred stocks. There is absolutely no soil as good for melons as alfalfa sod, and if you could see the difference in the products of the different plats you would be as enthusiastic over the plat system of selecting stock seed as I am.

In explanation of the plat or pedigree system of seed selection: In founding a strain of pedigreed plants, we first make a selection of one ideal melon. This melon is numbered and the seed is saved and planted in a plat by itself. In this manner I can readily see whether this melon tends toward a good or poor type, and can either save its increase or discard it. It is somewhat on the order of the ear to the row of selecting seed corn and is indorsed by seed breeders generally.

**PREPAID PRICES**—Packet 10c; Pound \$1.50; 5 pounds or more \$1.00 per lb. Remember, I both grow and guarantee this seed.





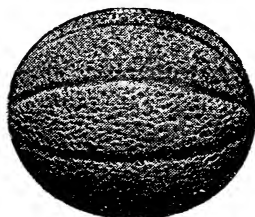
### **Watter's Early Strain Rocky Ford Cantaloupe**

This is a solid net type of the Rocky Ford melon. Its popularity is based on the fact that it ripens its crop from a week to ten days earlier than any other strain. In addition to its earliness, it is a very uniform sized, well netted melon. It produces as well as the other strains and with us runs just about standard size. While it is the choice of some of our best and largest growers, still its inclination to rust down, and its thin flesh are against it with others. I have a very fine stock of it, and if you want an early strain, this is what you should order.

**PREPAID PRICES**—Packet 10c; Pound, \$1.50; 5 pounds or more \$1.00 per lb. I grow and guarantee it.

### **Original or Thoroughbred Rocky Ford Cantaloupe**

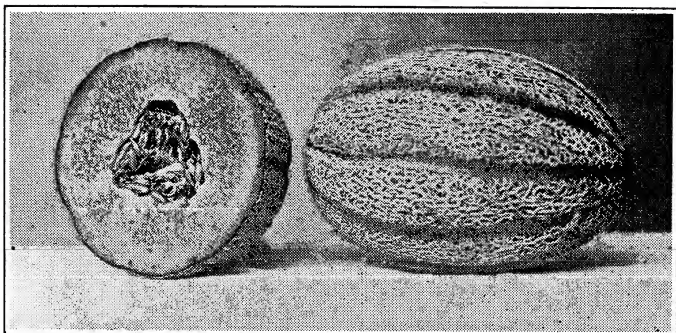
This is the good old melon that Rocky Ford made famous. It is the old Burpee Netted Gem, only selected a little longer in shape in order to fit a crate. It is still a first-class



melon, and a leader in very many sections. Heavily netted, with smooth creases running length ways. Early, prolific, uniform and pleasing to the eye, it is probably the best of the Rocky Fords for the grower who has a nearby market. The true seed of this melon is scarce and early ordering advisable. It is not a rust-resistant, nor a solid net and

runs somewhat smaller in size than the others but with us runs about 3-4 standard crates to 1-4 pony.

**PREPAID PRICES**—Packet, 10c; Pound, \$1.50; 5 pounds or more \$1.00 per lb. I grow and guarantee it.



## Salmon Fleshed Cantaloupe

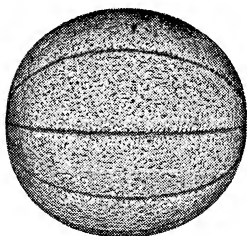
### Burrell Gem Cantaloupe



**T**HIS melon originated at Rocky Ford and was first marketed from here in 1905. Its very great merit as a good flavored and shipping melon at once became apparent so that it is now one of the most generally used melons today. It is a well netted melon, with smooth longitudinal creases, a trifle larger than the Rocky Ford. It is characterized by a very small seed cavity and thick salmon flesh of fine grain, and an excellent flavor. There is no better shipper and it has been the most profitable melons grown here. It is very hard to find a good strain of this melon but I have one that will please the most fastidious. I keep it up to the top notch of perfection through a system of plat breeding and good culture. Most of the prizes for Burrell Gems at the local fair have been won by my strain of seed. My stock is the only stock of this melon I know that has had the advantage of being plat bred.

This melon is not a red meated Rocky Ford nor is it rust-resistant. It should be planted on very well drained soil or it will crack during rainy weather.

**PREPAID PRICES**—Packet, 10c; Pound \$1.50; 5 pounds or more \$1.00 per lb. I grow and guarantee it.



### Early Green Nutmeg Cantaloupe

A great many people write me asking for an earlier melon than the Rocky Ford. There are several melons earlier than the Rocky Ford, but few you would care to eat. After growing hundreds of different varieties in my trial grounds for several seasons, I have concluded to list this one as the best extra early. The vines are vigorous, hardy, productive; the fruit round, slightly flat, ribbed, covered with a coarse netting; flesh very thick, green and of good flavor. Ten days earlier than the Rocky Ford and ripens the entire crop in a few days.

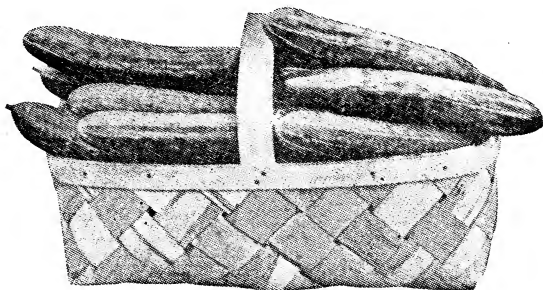
**PREPAID PRICES**—Packet, 10c; pound \$1.50; 5 pounds or more \$1.00 per lb. I grow and guarantee it.

## Reliable Cucumber Seed

Rocky Ford produces the bulk of the cucumber seed grown in America. As I have been growing the crop for several years in connection with the cantaloupes, I am in a position to offer you the following varieties, which I can recommend and you can rely upon. These are not all the good ones, but there is sufficient range of type to meet almost any need. The same care has been taken as to their purity as is given the cantaloupes and I, from my personal knowledge can assure you that the stocks are pure and the germination proved by careful tests. The same guarantee is given as goes with the melons and I want everyone who thinks the seed was not as good as it ought to be for any reason to have his money back.

You will notice I label all varieties either white spine or black spine. To those not understanding the meaning of these terms I will say that the term White Spine is applied to all cucumbers where the little pricklers, which are the size of a pin head and grow on the sides of the cucumber, are white. Where the spine is white the cucumber turns white when ripe. The white spined family are whiter fleshed, crisper and better flavored at slicing time than the blacks and the seeds do not develop so fast in some varieties. They never turn yellow and hold their color longer on the market than the blacks which turn yellow as soon as they get the least bit stale. The black spines are more vigorous in vine and stand the heavy picking necessary in pickle varieties. As a rule the white spines are used as slicers and the blacks for pickles.

PREPAID PRICES ON ALL VARIETIES—\$1.00 per lb; 10c per packet. I grow and guarantee them.



### Davis Perfect

DAVIS PERFECT—(White Spine). This is an extra long one of extra fancy shape and color. Where a long cucumber is wanted the market will take it at a better price than any other. The flavor is excellent and it remains green a long time after picking.

KLONDIKE—(White Spine). This variety is medium length and largely used by the Southern growers to ship to Northern markets. It is early, prolific, of good color and shape.

## **Reliable Cucumber Seed--Continued**

**EARLIEST OF ALL (White Spine.)** As its name indicates it is the earliest of all slicing cucumbers. In addition to its earliness it is also a very fancy dark green, medium length, prolific market sort. If you are growing for market you owe it to yourself to try this one. One grower calls it Earliest and Best of All.

**RAWSON'S ARLINGTON (White Spine.)** Arlington is one of the very best known varieties. I believe Rawson's strain is the best Arlington there is. Medium length, dark green main crop slicing cucumber.

**IMPROVED LONG GREEN (Black Spine.)** There is more of this variety used than any other. It is good for slicing or for the long slender type of pickles. A hardy, rank grower and bountiful yielder.

**BOSTON PICKLING (Black Spine.)** This is the one extensively used by the pickle factories. It is early, very prolific, uniform, cylindrical and makes a uniform desirable grade of pickles.

## **Rocky Ford Grown Watermelon Seed**

On the following page I am offering you some watermelon seed grown here under irrigation by first-class methods on the very best melon land we have. On account of competition between growers in the sand hills of the Texas Panhandle, Florida and Georgia, the watermelon seed at the United States is grown at a price where nothing is charged for the use of the land and very little for the labor involved. Under such conditions the quality is very uncertain. I am offering you one of the very few chances to obtain really dependable watermelon seed.

## **Tom Watson Watermelon**

This melon is of very recent introduction and its merits are such that it has obtained instant recognition from the wide-awake growers all over the country. It is the only melon I know that has the shipping qualities of the best shipping varieties and at the same time is a first-class melon to eat. In shape it is a trifle longer and larger than the Kleckly with a rind just a tint lighter in color. Its many good qualities command for it the highest prices on the market and its strong growing vine produces enormous crops of well developed fruits. The flesh is a very attractive red color of fine enough texture to be good eating but still bear handling without cracking.

This melon, while not quite so early nor of as good flavor as the Kleckly is displacing it with a large percent of our market growers on account of its greater tonnage per acre, less loss from handling, and the fact that it sells at least as well in the markets.

PRICES PREPAID, \$1.00 per pound; 10c per packet.



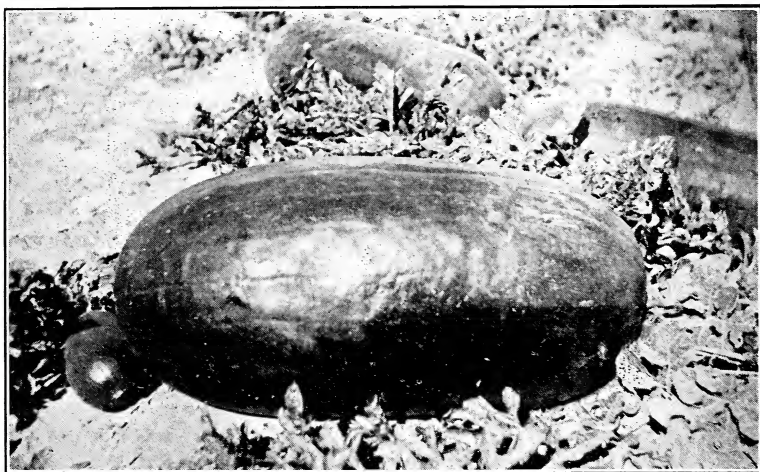
# Rocky Ford Grown Watermelon Seed

## Improved or Hardshell Strain Kleckly Sweet Watermelon

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The Kleckly Sweet is undoubtedly one of the best eating melons ever grown. In my estimation for the home garden or nearby market it has no competitor. The strain I offer has been selected with the idea of getting a harder rind without affecting the eating quality, and we have made quite an improvement over the old style Kleckly. Although it is not fit for long distance shipments, we have used it to hold the markets of Colorado against cheaper produced melons from the South, and also to make Rocky Ford famous the world over for the

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quality of its watermelons. This is an early, medium sized, oblong melon with a skin of a very rich dark green color; flesh being a bright scarlet, ripening up close to the skin; rind seldom being over 1-2 inch in thickness. I have this melon grown for me by the most expert melon grower here. With this strain of Kleckly he most always takes first premium at the Rocky Ford Fair where the melon prize is the most eagerly sought of all.

When properly grown this strain may be distinguished from the common Kleckly by having deeper creases running length ways and better developed bumps on the ripe melons.

PREPAID PRICES—\$1.00 per pound; 10c per packet.

**BACK OF ME**

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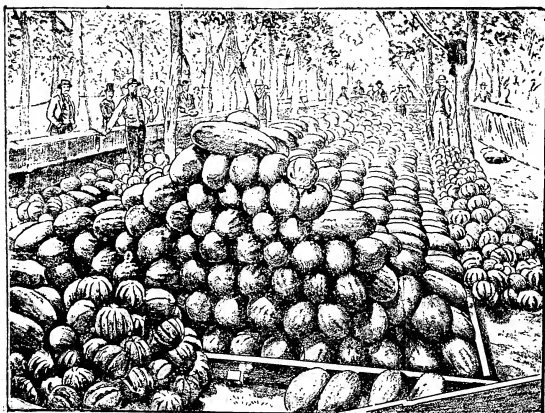
**IS THE**

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**MELON PILE**

**COUNTRY**

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**Q** For 28 years Rocky Ford has been building a melon pile like the above, or larger, for “Melon Day” free distribution. In that time there has not been a melon crop failure. That record assures me of well matured seed crops every year.